A SHORT

TOUR;

OR,

AN IMPARTIAL AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION

OF THE

COUNTY OF CLARE,

WITH

SOME PARTICULAR AND HISTORICAL OBSERVATIONS.

BY JOHN LLOYD.

ENNIS:

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[*Price a Britiſh Shilling.*]

To Mr. LLOYD, on his conciſe *Deſcription* of NORTH MUNSTER.

MY free Parnaſſian, and my Friend ſincere,
Your Short Deſcription of the County-*Clare*
I have perus'd; and think, upon due Pauſe,
'Twill from the Curious meet with great Applauſe;
As well as from each knowing, candid, Man
Who ſees the extent of your compact Plan,
But, as each Writer, both ſublime and poor,
Of buſy Critics may be always ſure;
You'll ſooner turn Birches into Cedars
Than 'ſcape th' cenſure of thoſe envious Readers:
Such feeble Foes cannot true Merit wound,
Their ſpleenful Squibs are ſpent in Smoak and Sound.

To you we own the Laurel's juſtly due,
When Arts are low and Antiquarians few,
For your inrolling our once-happy *Clare*,
It's Soil, it's Verdure, and it's healthful Air;
It's Groves and Lawns, it's Fruit and fragrant Flow'rs,
(Moſt pleaſing Emblems of th' Elyſian Bow'rs)
It's fiſhy Ponds, it's ſportive Woods and Glades,
It's purling Rills and Chryſtaline Caſcades;
It's Beef and Beer, of which all Ranks were free,
The healing produce of the Hive and Tree;
With all that could from Nature's Bounty flow,
Or what kind Heaven could on Earth beſtow.

In fact, *North Munſter* (tho' now much reduc'd)
Moſt famous Men has heretofore produc'd;

A Match

BRITISH MUSEUM

A Match for any Worthies round the Sun,
At Epic Pen, at Piſtol, Sword or Gun ;
Illuſtrious Chiefs whoſe noble Actions claim
The firſt, grand, Folio in th' Rolls of Fame!
Who, Arts and Tongues got learnedly reviſ'd,
Had Poets paid, and Teachers patroniz'd ;
No wonder, then, that Crowds, from Year to Year,
From diſtant Countries came to Study here.

Such copious Bleſſings, doubtleſs, my dear Lloyd,
For ages paſt our peaceful Land enjoy'd ;
'Till Fate adverſe, this inauſpicious Time,
Has chang'd it's Luck, the Cuſtom and the Clime !
And now, alas ! we ſee it quite diſtreſs'd,
By Taxes weak'ned and it's Trade repreſs'd !
The Tenant wreck'd, unable to pay Rent,
The needy Landlord driving for Content ;
Some gen'rous Souls, that would Diſtreſs aſſuage,
Of Means bereft, or, in the Debtor's Cage ;
Pure Wit and Parts eclips'd and diſreſpect'd,
Our native Tongue moſt ſhamefully reject'd ;
A Tongue primitive, * florid and Sublime,
Of nervous Force in either Proſe or Rhime.

* See the learned Dr. *Keiting*'s Impartial Account of the Riſe and Progreſs of Languages, after the Eſtabliſhment of the firſt School at Eſthena, or Shenar (in the Year 242 after the Flood) under the Superintendence of the celebrated *Feinius Farſah* ; Progenitor to the Mileſians, or Royal Iriſh.

'Twould only help to aggravate our Woe
To tell the Fountain whence theſe Evils flow;
My Muſe who knows the doleful Cauſe aright
Bids us not war with miniſterial Might;
Nor raiſe *Shillelee* to enervate thoſe
Who've been long our cruel, offenſive, Foes:
But, ſpeedy Aid from gracious God implore,
Who, can relieve us and our Rights reſtore.

Ennis, May 24, 1779. T. M——N.

22 JY63

A SHORT

TOUR;

OR,

An Impartial and Accurate DESCRIPTION

OF THE

COUNTY of CLARE,

WITH

Some particular and Hiſtorical Obſervations.

THIS County in the Province of Munſter, is ſituate South Weſt, by Weſt of Dublin. Bounded on the North Eaſt, by the black

heathy Mountains of the County of Galway, on the North Weſt, by Malbay, on the Weſt, by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the South Eaſt by Eaſt, by the great River Shannon, which divides it from the Counties of Kerry, Limerick and Tipperary; it contains 74 Pariſhes, 9 Baronies, and one Borough Town; ſends four Members to Parliament, it is about 70 Miles long and 30 broad, from its agreeable ſituation, the Climate is remarkably wholeſome, the Air clear and temperate, and the Proſpect pure and delightful, the Land for the moſt Part, is extremely good for Tillage and Paſture; and its horn'd Cattle for Size and Quality, equal to any in the Kingdom, it has ſome high Mountainous Ground, a good deal of which, is Arable and choice rearing; the Soil produces good Grain as any in the Neighbouring Counties. Nor is

this

this Country for theſe two Staple Commodities, Beef and Butter, inferior to any other.

KILLALOE at the Eaſtern extremity of this County, is an old Village and a Biſhop's See, it's a Market Town well inhabited; this place was formerly noted for great Encampments, and famous for it's Vicinity with CEANNCORA. (a)

From

(a) This was the large and royal Manſion of BRYAN BOROVY, and his illuſtrious Anceſtors, this renown'd Deliverer of his Country, reign'd 36 Years King of Munſter, and 12 Years Monarch of Ireland; he fought 49 Battles againſt the Danes and their Allies, &c.—in moſt of which he was Victorious; the laſt, he fought on Good Friday the 22d of April, 1034, on the Plains of Clontarff, near Dublin, where he

From KILLALOE to MOUNT SHANNON DALY (a Connaught Boundary) is a Hilly Country with ſome fertile Vallies, the Shannon in ſome

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fell at the Age of 88 Years, with his valiant Son MOROGH, a Prince of exalted Virtues and remarkable Bravery; as alſo, the ſelect Part of the Connaught and Munſter Troops; the declared enemies of Ireland got ſuch a final Defeat on that Memorable Day, that they never after rul'd, much leſs retrieve themſelves to any Perfection ever ſince in this Kingdom; the Monarch and his Son Morogh were interr'd with great Solemnity in the Metropolitan Church of Ardmagh——this deciſive Battle, ſo generally authenticated in Iriſh Annals, that a further detail of it (to aſcertain the Valour of the brave Dalgaſſians) is totally unneceſſary.

ſome Parts there, is immenſely broad, the Lands from thence (including SLIEVE EIGHTY, bordering on the County of Galway) to BURREN, is rather poor and Mountainous than otherwiſe; this Barony or Territory of Burren, is a rocky, high, Country; the ſubſequent Deſcription thereof is humbly ſubmitted.——The Barony of BURREN (ſaith General Ludlow in his Memoirs) is a Country, where there is not Water enough to drown a Man, Wood enough to hang him, nor Earth enough to bury him, which laſt is ſo ſcarce, that the Inhabitants ſteal it one from another, and yet their Cattle are very fat, for the Graſs growing in Turffs of Earth, of two or three Feet ſquare, that lie between the Rocks, which are of Limeſtone, is very ſweet and nouriſhing; this Country belonged to the Ancient Family of

the O'Loghlens, who then certainly aim'd at the Nominal Title of Kings and Princes of Burren——from this Principality along the adjoining Barony of Corcamroe, and the Northern bleak Coaſt, is one continued Ledge of high, rocky, Cliffs to the Weſt End of Tuoharan; on this Weſtern Cape or Headland lies the famous, Old, Fort Ruain, call'd Mohar, which is nearly the ſame as Fort in the Iriſh Language; this Mohar is the ſummit of a very high, ſtupendous Cliff, ſurrounded with a Stone Wall, a part of which is up; inſide of it is a green Plain, which exhibits a clear Proſpect of the gloomy Highlands of Eyr Connaught, the Iſles of Aren, of almoſt the whole Coaſt of Malbay, and of the adjacent Country for many Miles; underneath this is another green Paſture gradually declining

to the lower Cliff, and which is often covered with the raging Billows of this alarming Coaſt: On the lower Plain is Hagſhead, a high, perpendicular Rock, almoſt parallel with the upper Surface; it is cloſely ſimilar to a Woman's Head, for which it is call'd HAGS-HEAD, a remarkable Point in the Seaman's Chart.

This wonderful Promontory almoſt encompaſs'd with devouring Seas, and the oppoſite Wild Shore, really affords an horrible and tremendous Aſpect, vaſtly more to be dreaded than accounted for.

Numbers of different Ranks, from far and near reſort hither every Summer to ſee this amazing Appearance and Curioſity of Nature.

Multitudes, likewiſe, in the fine Seaſon, repair

pair to various Parts of this Coaſt, for the benefit of the Northern Waters.

Near to MOHAR, are the Noted Sand-Hills of LISCANOR BAY, commonly call'd O'CONNOR's DOUGH, from that Chief's Reſidence on the inſide Sandy Plain; the Walls of his Court and Caſtle are ſtill up on the River AINEY—this Barony of CORCAMORE is for the moſt Part, a fertile, plentiful and good Country—the brave and Hoſpitable old Family of the O'CONNOR's, were, for a ſucceſſion of Centuries, before the firſt Engliſh Invaſion, and for a good while after, ſole Proprietors of this Romantic Country.

Contiguous to this Coaſt of MALBAY, is the high MOUNT CALLEN, which commands an inviting Proſpect of the whole Country, it's fruitful

fruitful Environs are Inhabited by the Deſcendants of Northern or Ultonian Emigrants to this Country, during the late Wars in this Kingdom; they are an honeſt endeavouring Sort of People.

On this remarkable high Mountain, is a large, flat, Stone, under which CONANUS (one of the Celebrated Iriſh Militia) is buried; this Stone hath an Iriſh, Celtic, Inſcription on it, which implies in Engliſh, under this Stone lies the furious and long-legg'd CONANUS— probably this Mountain takes, it's Name from this Monumental Stone, as Callaan is one of the Iriſh Appellations for a Rock, or Stone. According to Iriſh Romance, the above Gentleman, was a very Uncouth Officer, and a Voracious Eater.

South East of MOUNT CALLEN ſprings the River AINEY, runs acroſs the Country, in it's rapid Windings Waſhes the beautiful and reſounding Caſcades of INNISTYMON, (b) ſalutes the Magnificent Seat and Elegant Improvements of EDWARD O'BRIEN Eſq; the Sand Hills of Tuoharan, already mention'd; from thence falls into the Roaring Bay of Liſcanor, an Arm of the Weſtern Ocean.

KILLFENORA,

(b) Inniſtymon in the Barony of Corcamroe, is a riſing Village, ornamented with an elegant Bridge, and a delightful Waterfall—— here is an old Chappel, and a new Church, with two noted Capital Fairs in the Year; here is a large and plentiful Market every Saturday,

KILLFENORA, likewiſe in the Barony of CORCAMROE, is a Biſhop's See, and an old Market Town, was once a Place of ſome Inland Trade and Conſequence, at preſent that old, ruinous, Village, may be truely eſteem'd the reverſe of what it was half a Century ago; though, ſtill, in the Centre of a reſpectable, good, Neighbourhood.

Three Miles Weſtward of INNISTYMON, lies MOY, (c) in the Barony of IBRICKAN, thence

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Saturday, and as well ſtock'd with Stockings, as Killaloe is with Eels.

This is the Eſtate of EDWARD O'BRIEN Eſq; Chief of that diſtinguiſh'd, ancient, Family of DOUGH.

(c) (Whoſe Caſtle, Out-Offices and grand,

thence for ſeveral Miles Weſterly along the Coaſt of MALBAY, is a large Tract of good Ground; the Cold and Blakeneſs of this N. W. ſituation, and the Periodical Blaſts generally attending, are ſufficient Cauſes that Gentmen do not inhabit here frequently, as in other Parts of the County; ſtill, there are ſome elegant Seats from MOY to KILLKEE, (d) worthy

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old, Improvements almoſt gone to ruin) is, with it's Extenſive Denominations, the Eſtate of EDWARD FITZ GERALD, of Carigoran, Eſq; one of our preſent Repreſentatives, and Chief of that ancient Tuſcan Branch (of the moſt Noble Houſe of Killdare) in this County.

(d) The moſt Weſtern Seat on this Coaſt, is a ſpacious and regular old Modell'd Houſe, with

worthy of Attention, but are not agreeably Improv'd for the above material Reaſons; it is a fine Sporting Country in the Summer Seaſon, and always well Stock'd and Cultivated.

MALBAY, equal to it's Epithet for badneſs, has been for Centuries paſt terribly fatal to Navigators; the Northern Coaſt generally lin'd with aſtoniſhing Cliffs, and dreadful Rocks,

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with many Out-Offices, ſituate on the Brink of a delightful Bay, and a pleaſant Beach, decorated with Sand Hills, and ſhelter'd from the North Weſt Wind, by a commanding Eminence.

This is the Eſtate of CHAR. MAC DONNELL, of Newhall, Eſq; Chief of that antient Ultonian Line, in North Munſter.

Rocks, together with the prodigious Swells, leaves no room or ſafe Anchorage, ſcarcely, for Veſſels of any Burthen from the Harbour of GALWAY to LEAP's HEAD, which is a Diſtance of near twenty Leagues; but, from the great Caution of the Wary and Experienc'd Mariner, few or no Veſſels have been Wreck'd here theſe many Years.

There is an Artificial Curioſity made uſe of by certain Individuals, in the upper Part this dangerous Coaſt. It's a Kind of Canoe or Currach, compos'd of Wattles, cover'd with Raw Hydes: With this Indian-like conſtruction, they Fiſh ſucceſsfully in the proper Seaſon, and Paddle ſome Leagues out in calm Weather; in the Month of Auguſt there is often a large Squadron of them together, in

the

the Bay of LISCANOR, and in this Fiſhing Poſture, they appear like ſo many Porpoiſes on the Surface: Each Man carries his Wicker Boat, or Canoe, on his Back, occaſionally to and from the Shore.

Midway on this Northern Courſe, lies DOUGH-MORE or the Sand Hills of CLO-HANES, they are of great height, and a Mile long.——Annex'd to theſe is MONE-MORE, a wide extenſive Bog, interſpers'd with a Variety of Lakes, and extending from MALBAY to the SHANNON, it is about twenty Miles in Circumference, a great Part whereof is ſinking and unprofitable, a Part of it good rearing for ſix Months; and the Part adjacent to the SHANNON, is excellent, good, Turbury, from whence the large and populous

City

City of LIMERICK, is generally ſupplied with Firing throughout the Year; for this purpoſe there are no leſs than 70 or 80 large Boats uſually employed to carry Turff to Market.

The extreme Weſt of this Country is a Peninſula, almoſt encircled on the North and South by MALBAY, and the SHANNON, two Miles in Breadth, ſcarcely one in ſome Parts, dividing the two great Waters.

This Weſtern Neck, is rather low than high Ground, bounded by Verdant Eminences gradually aſcending: the Soil ſo agreeably anſwering the Expectations of the Laborious Huſbandman, that the Markets of Limerick, Tralee and Ennis, are often ſupplied from thence with Cargoes of Wheat and other Grain.

From

From this pleaſant Retirement, are viſible a great Part of this County, the Weſt of CONAUGHT with the Iſles of AREN, MOHAR UI RUAIN and MOUNT CALLAN, the County of KERRY in almoſt it's full Extent, with it's diſtant High Lands.

At the Weſtern Extremity of this Peninſula, is a Light Houſe Tower-like built on a riſing Plain, commanding the ſtupendous Cliffs of that Notable Point in the Sea-faring World, call'd LEAP's HEAD, which is a Rock or ſmall Iſland, and within a Stone's throw of the Continent, it is call'd by Navigators LUP's HEAD, the ſame appearing to them, at ſome diſtance, like unto a Wolf's Head; This Appellation of LEAP's HEAD properly Originates from CONGULLUS or CUCHOLLAN (an Ultonian Champion and Chief of

the Iriſh Combatants of that Æra) who leap'd from the oppoſite Shore into that Iſland, and ſince that Time, it is called by the Iriſh Antiquarians, the Leap of CUCHOLAN: Note, that this Northern Hero flouriſh'd in the beginning of the firſt Century, and moſt probably, the Diſtance between the Shore and Iſland, widen'd conſiderably ſince that early Period.

Four Miles S. E. of LEAP'S HEAD, on the River SHANNON, lies REHEY, an arable lofty Hill, with a Verdant Top, from whence is a moſt agreeable Survey of the oppoſite Countries, the Deſcent from the Summit of this Hill to the Surface of the SHANNON, is truly Alarming and Tremendous:

Not far Eaſt of REHEY HILL, is CAR-

RIGHOLT on the Verge of the SHANNON; it's Romantic Situation, Air, and Elegance, juſtly merit the Attenton of the Curious Virtuoſo; the Court and Offices are totally gone to ruin, and the grand, old, Improvements very much decayed, the Caſtle with it's additional Apartment, are in excellent Order: it was formerly deem'd a Place of ſome Strength; here is a ſafe Harbour for the largeſt Veſſels, and a Quay for the ſmall Craft.

This delightful Place, was an Antient Eſtate and Reſidence, of that Heroic and Noble CLARE Family; Predeceſſors to the late Marſhal THOMOND, and for near a Century, it belongs to that Worthy and Reſpectable Family of the BURTONS.

Four Miles Eaſt of CARRIGHOLT, is the great Strand or TRAIGH-MORE, ſeven or eight Miles in Circuit, a great Part of which is a ſoft Beach, it's an Angle of the SHANNON, and at low Water fordable in different Places, it's a Boundary to the South Side of the extreme Weſt:

Two Miles Eaſt of this Strand lies KILLRUSH, a great Herring Fiſhery, it's a handſome Village, with a long and wide Street, and ſome good Houſes; the Inhabitants are Induſtrious, Humane and agreeable; here is a plentiful Market every Saturday: No leſs than a hundred Boats of different Burthens belong to this Town and Neighbourhood——This pleaſant Stuation, with an extenſive Tract in this Country, was an antient Eſtate of that Gallant, Uultonian, old, Family, the O'KEANS

of

of the Weſt; and now it's the Property of CROFTON VANDELEUR Eſq.

Off KILLRUSH in the SHANNON, lies SCATT'RY ISLAND or ENNISCATHA, famous for it's being the Reſidence of that pious and early Chriſtian St. SENAN, who (for his Miraculous Life, and Sanctified Morals) is Illuſtrious among the firſt and Holy Recorded Iriſh Saints: This celebrated Saint was born near KILLRUSH: In ancient Time, Numbers of all Ranks, from various Parts reſorted hither to perform Penance, and offer large Donations before this Holy Shrine: Here is, perhaps, the loftieſt old Steeple in the Kingdom, with five or ſix large and ſmall Churches, here is, alſo, a noted and excellent Harbour for large and ſmall Veſſels.

ENNISCATHA, ſo call'd from CATHAGH, the Name of that horrible Monſter who reſided here, until expell'd by St. SENAN, who (by Divine Ordinance) took poſſeſſion of the Iſland.

From CARRIGHOLT to CLARE and LIMERICK, along the Rivers SHANNON and FERGUS, offers a moſt agreeable Landſcape of ſafe and commodious Harbours, fragrant and fruitful Iſlands; a delightful Country well Stock'd and Cultivated, and Embelliſh'd with beautiful Seats, (e) abounding with all neceſſary

(e) There is a Multiplicity of Gentlemen's Seats between Lup's Head and Limerick delightfully ſituated on the Rivers Shannon and Fergus. Their charming Proſpect and elegant

ſary accommodations ſufficient to Sooth the Pleaſures of Human Life.

CLARE,

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gant Improvements richly merit the Attention of the Curious.

Bhold, PARADISE, with it's lofty and airy Summit, pleaſantly ſituated and overlooking both Rivers on a Commanding Eminence, which freely affords a Romantic Survey of Part of three or four Countries: This noble Situation is Ornamented with a Charming and Bewildering Shrubbery, beautiful Gardens, Avenues, Lawns and Caſcades, which truely contribute to make it a Munſter Paradiſe, and ſtand Conſpicuous among the firſt and moſt Eligible Seats in this Kingdom.—This is the Manſion Place and Eſtate of RICHARD HENN Eſq; (a Minor) eldeſt Son of the late

WILLIAM

WILLIAM HENN Eſq; to the Memory of whom the following ſhort Elegy was deſervedly offer'd by a Native of this County.

ALAS! what tears! what grief and ſad deſpair!
Are ſtill attendant on the County *Clare*;
Oh! poor *North Munſter* doleful is thy doom!
Thy chiefeſt branches lopt in early bloom;
When lofty Oaks are rent by dire alarm,
The Under-Wood, alas! muſt feel the ſtorm;
Some vengeful hand, ſome planetary peſt,
Preſides of late all o'er the *dreary Weſt*;
Great *Charles* (1) open'd firſt that tragic ſcene,
Which now is clos'd by noble-minded *Henn*;
A courteous man exempt from ſpleen or pride,
Whom honour led, and letters dignify'd;
The huſband kind, the maſter truly good,
The loving father of a lovely brood;
A gen'rous friend to poor and indigent,
To ſocial life a lively ornament:
Oh! cruel decree thro' which you got a charge,
So ſoon to follow much lamented *George*. (2)
Elſe, couldſt thou think to quit with peace of mind,
Theſe tender pledges left by thee behind;
Oh! what can render comfort in this life,
To your afflicted, dear and virtuous wife?
Whoſe female friends with her, by woeful fate,
Are plung'd in mourning at an early date;
Ah!

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(1) *Charles M'Donald, Eſq;*
(2) *George Colepoys, Eſq;*

CLARE, is ſituate 104 Miles, S. W. of DUBLIN in Lat. 52 d. 42 m. N. and in Long. 9. d. 11 m. Weſt, ſome Writers affirm, that it derives it's Name from RICHARD and THOMAS DE CLARE, Sons of the Earl of GLOUCESTER, to whom King Edward the Firſt, granted this Country.

I ſhall advance the following Opinion and Derivation, according to the old Hiſtorian BRODINUS a Native of this County——this

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Ah! curſed death that gave the final wound,
By *William's* loſs our loſſes all are crown'd:
Than whom no ſoul among the joyous throng,
More freely gave a bottle and a ſong;
He lov'd the poet and the man of arts,
Theſe times when others ſlight both wit and parts;
Hence, will his fame to after ages ſhine,
By free tranſmiſſion thro' each living line;
And cauſe his name to be regiſter'd o'er,
Till tongues are ſtill'd and pens ſhall be no more.

Ennis, Jan. 21, 1779. T. M——n.

latter Definition may be eſſentially receiv'd as the former.

It was DONOGH CARBREACH (Son of the great DONALD O'BRIEN, abſolute King of LIMERICK and NORTH MUNSTER) built and ſtrongly fortified the Caſtle of CLARE, which took it's Name from a Bridge of Planks erected over the River FERGUS at that Time.

This Town, ſituate on the FERGUS, is by Name the Capital of this County, it's a ſmall Sea-Port: the entrance whereof is only Navigable and ſufficient for ſmall Veſſels to Ride in; and with reſpect to it's proximity to ENNIS, it's Trade and Commerce are of no material Conſequence; here are ſome good Houſes, alſo, an elegant New Bridge, built by

by the ingenious Mr. JOHN SEMPLE, under the ſuperintendence of Sir LUCIUS O'BRIEN Bart. The Caſtle and Fortifications here are much decayed—the ſituation of this Place is truely delightful, the Air open and agreeable, and the Lands about it extremely good and beautifully Improv'd——two or three Companies of Infantry are generally Quarter'd here, it was formerly counted a ſtrong Paſs: and was for ſome time the Reſidence of the great Earl of CLARENCE, commonly call'd CLARAGH MORE (f).

The

(f) An Engliſh Nobleman, renown'd for his long conteſted Wars with *Terlagh O'Brien*, Prince of North Munſter, call'd by Antiquarians *Terlagh na Cathreime*——the Earl of *Clarence* overbearing and ambitious to uſurp a Sovereignty

The River FERGUS, takes it's Source from LOUGH FERGUS in the Barony of INCHIQUIN,

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Sovereignty in this County, was, after many bloody Engagements with *Terlagh O'Brien*, and his Confederate Chiefs, kill'd with moſt of his gallant Troops, near Dyſart in the Barony of Inchiquin, by the valiant *O'Dea*, then Chief of that ſame Territory, the intrepid *Phelim O'Connor* of Corcamroe, and the brave *Loghlen Laidir O'Heihir*, Lord of Icormack——theſe noble Chiefs, (who were Subjects to *Terlagh*) fought that Day at the Head of their reſpective Clans, with unabated Fury and Courage, untill dear-bought Victory at laſt declar'd for them——that memorable Action, or rather Carnage, with the loſs of the

QUIN, and from it's Junction and Communication with other Rivers iſſuing from the two Romantic Lakes of INCHIQUIN and

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the great and warlike *Clarence*, put an End to the fatal Conteſts, and ſecur'd the Sovereignty and peaceable Poſſeſſion of North Munſter to *Terlagh More* and his Deſcendants. ——Note, that this turbulent Time happen'd in the Reign of Henry the Third of England.

This Victorious *Terlagh O'Brien*, was Son to *Teige O'Brien*—Sirnamed *Caoiluiſge*, who was Prince of Thomond 28 Years, this *Terlagh* was likewiſe Prince of Thomond, and was Married to a Daughter of *Conmea More Mac Namara*, Prince of Clancullane.

It was the ſame—that built the Caſtle of Clonroad, near Ennis, where he moſtly Reſided.

BALLY-

The River FERGUS, takes it's Source from LOUGH FERGUS in the Barony of INCHIQUIN,

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Sovereignty in this County, was, after many bloody Engagements with *Terlagh O'Brien*, and his Confederate Chiefs, kill'd with moſt of his gallant Troops, near Dyſart in the Barony of Inchiquin, by the valiant *O'Dea*, then Chief of that ſame Territory, the intrepid *Phelim O'Connor* of Corcamroe, and the brave *Loghlen Laidir O'Heihir*, Lord of Icormack——theſe noble Chiefs, (who were Subjects to *Terlagh*) fought that Day at the Head of their reſpective Clans, with unabated Fury and Courage, untill dear-bought Victory at laſt declar'd for them——that memorable Action, or rather Carnage, with the loſs of the

QUIN, and from it's Junction and Communication with other Rivers iſſuing from the two Romantic Lakes of INCHIQUIN and

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the great and warlike *Clarence*, put an End to the fatal Conteſts, and ſecur'd the Sovereignty and peaceable Poſſeſſion of North Munſter to *Terlagh More* and his Deſcendants. ——Note, that this turbulent Time happen'd in the Reign of Henry the Third of England.

This Victorious *Terlagh O'Brien*, was Son to *Teige O'Brien*—Sirnamed *Caoiluiſge*, who was Prince of Thomond 28 Years, this *Terlagh* was likewiſe Prince of Thomond, and was Married to a Daughter of *Conmea More Mac Namara*, Prince of Clancullane.

It was the ſame—that built the Caſtle of Clonroad, near Ennis, where he moſtly Reſided.

BALLY-

BALLY-ANLY, it appears a large Navigable River ſaluting the Town of ENNIS, the thrice noble ſituation and elegant, old, Improvements of CLONROAD, from thence to CLARE, and four Leagues below it, exhibits a moſt delightful Appearance of various Meandring Courſes, beautifully variegated with a Diverſity of naturally improv'd Iſlands, untill it falls into the SHANNON.

ENNIS, agreeably ſituated on the FERGUS (in the Barony of ISLANDS) may be juſtly call'd the Metropolis of this County; it's a Rich, Inland, Aſſizes Town, and a Borough, handſome and uniform, the Streets are well pav'd and regular, the Shops neat and well furniſh'd; here are a magnificent Court-Houſe with a ſtately Exchange: a grand A-

cademical

cademical School, an Infirmary, a Houſe of Induſtry with many more excellent Buildings, and two Religious Houſes, all which are extremely well Executed; here are likewiſe, Bolting Mills, &c. &c. which for Execution and Elegance of Conſtruction are not inferior to any of the Kind in this Kingdom, this Town in general is populous, the Inhabitants are liberally humane and laudably Accompliſh'd with the praiſe-worthy Notions of Induſtry——here are two plentiful Markets held on Tueſday and Saturdays.

The School-Houſe here was founded by two Honourable Patrons, to Wit; Lord Chief Juſtice PATERSON and Sir LUCIUS O'BRIEN Bart. as Executors of the Will of ERASMUS SMYTH, Eſq. To form an Idea of the Lord

Chief

Chief Juſtice's happy Character, the Reader is refer'd to the following

ACROSTIC.

M y courteous Lord from Goodneſs can't decline,
A Branch extracted from a fragrant Vine;
R eplete with Honor, Knowledge and good Senſe,
C ompleatly grac'd with eaſy Eloquence.
U nto each Object lib'ral of his Store,
S o ſtrong his Feelings to relieve the Poor.

P ray, who can Law or Juſtice ſweetly ſcan,
A t Bar or Bench like this illuſtrious Man?
T he Wreaths of Orat'ry and it's gold'n Gown,
E ach Rival yields, our worthy Chief to crown.
R ejoice North Munſter, loudly roar and ring,
S ince your faint Arts can have a ſecond Spring;
O ur Patron's Works and Monuments of Fame,
N ow grandly ſhine to eternize his Name.

Ennis, 12th Aug. 1774.

TUREEN, the Seat of AUGUSTINE FITZ GERALD Eſq; lies two Miles Eaſt of ENNIS; is an elegant ſituation—beautifully improved both by Art and Nature—the Houſe and Offi-

ces

ces are regular and compact, agreeably built on the gentle aſcent of a Verdant Eminence, from whence are viſible ſome Parts of the Counties of KERRY, LIMERICK, and GALWAY, and the major Part of this County.

Here Hoſpitality and Chriſtian Love,
With all the Social Virtues from above
Unite, with zeal, poor Objects to careſs;
And relieve all encumber'd with Diſtreſs.

CURROFIN, in the Barony of INCHIQUIN, ſituate near that fair and ſpacious Lake of that Name, is an handſome, compact, Town, with a good Market Houſe, and from its agreeable ſituation, is generally accommodated with ſome material conveniencies.

ASOLLAS, in the Barony of BUNRATTY, for many Years famous for Capital Race-Horſes and a commanding Race Courſe, is a

ſmall, clean Viliage, agreeably ſituated, and ſaluted by the rapid and celebrated River of KILLTENNAN, which ſprings at AILL, in the Upper Part of the Barony of TULLA, and falls below DROMOLAND into the FERGUS.

Almoſt midway between ASOLLAS and NEW MARKET, lies DORMOLAND near the FERGUS; is the Family Manſion of Sir LUCIUS O'BRIEN, Bart. it is elegantly improv'd both by Art and Nature, and ſituate on the Verge of a delightful Lake, abounding with variety of Fiſh and Wild Fowl; the Houſe is antient and large, and at ſome diſtance exhibits a grand external appearance, it is encircled by Verdant, Airy, Eminences; the Demeſne is divided into beautiful Slopes

and

and Avenues, improv'd at a conſiderable Expence; from the Eaſt End of the Houſe to the notable and murmuring River of ASOLLAS, is an elegant Walk enclos'd with Ever-Greens for about a Quarter of a Mile long, agreeably interſpers'd with leſſer Walks, traverſing to the Right and Left, and terminating in charming Groves, of a truely Romantic Appearance.

The Gardens are beautifully laid out,—— enrich'd with various Fruits and Flowers, &c. and decorated with Walks—Terraces, Hot-Houſes and all other requiſite Ornaments Artificial and Natural; here is a Square of Stabling compleatly finiſh'd in a manner not inferior to any of the Kind in Ireland.

NEW MARKET, in the Barony of BUN-

RATTY, is a pleaſant ſituation, and an old Market Town compos'd of one ſpacious Street, whoſe Buildings are (from Time and decay of Trade) very much impair'd; Thro' the Center of the Town runs a Purling Stream; here is a large and elegant Charter-School. This Village, with an extenſive Tract of Land in this truly charming and fertile Country of TRADREE, is the Eſtate of Sir LUCIUS O'BRIEN, Bart. and Member of Parliament for this County, the outlines of whoſe exalted Character are delineated in the following

ACROSTIC.

L et learned Bards who lofty Themes deſire,
U nerring Wit and Eloquence admire,
C ome near and ſing a Subject worth their Praiſe
I n Sonnets ſweet or in Parnaſſian Lays;
U nequal'd Honour crowns him with Applauſe,
S tedfaſt and Zealous in his Country's Cauſe:

O h!

O h! from North Blows who could defend us
right
B ut our brave Shield the free, Dalgaſſian,
Knight?
R eaſon and Senſe his princely Actions rule,
I n Courage great in manly Paſſions cool:
E ach Mark of Worth which makes our Patr'ot
ſhine
N ow plainly ſhews the grand and noble Line.
Ennis, June 4, 1776.

Near unto NEW MARKET, is the Magnificent Church of KILLANASULA, where Numbers, from the diſtant Quarters of this and the adjacent Counties, reſort every Summer to ſee the ſumptuous and ſtately Monument erected there at the Expence of the late Sir EDWARD O'BRIEN, Bart. (of Patriotic Memory) in honour of his Grand-Sire Sir DONOGH O'BRIEN Baronet; this Superb and Exquiſite Piece was executed by the great Artizan, Mr. GREGORY.

Five

Five Miles Eaſt of NEW MARKET lies SIX-MILE-BRIDGE, in the Barony of BUNRATTY, it is a regular, commodious, and pretty Town——here are ſome good Buildings, and a handſome Market-Houſe, and from it's ſituation, ſo naturally agreeable, it is, thro' the Year, convenienc'd with many requiſite Accommodations; this Town is ſaluted in its Center by the Trout-teeming River of MOUNT CASHELL.

On the ſame River, and within half a Mile of SIX-MILE-BRIDGE, are the Oyl-Mills, a grand, ingenious, and Mechanical Conſtruction.

Not far from theſe, and within five Miles of LIMERICK adjoining the SHANNON, lies CRATLOE, whoſe clear and healthful ſituation,

tion, extenſive Woods and elegant Improvements, cloſely bordering the SHANNON, richly merit the Commendations of the Curious.

CRATLOE Mountain, commonly call'd Gallows-Hill—forms a ſurmounting Proſpect, and perhaps the moſt Romantic in Ireland—a Landſcape ſo agreeably pleaſant, that it is by far eaſier conceiv'd than deſcrib'd.

From thence are viſible, the great Rivers SHANNON and FERGUS, diverſifyed with a variety of Iſlands, Angles, and Improvements for many Leagues; the flouriſhing City and County of LIMERICK——SLIEVE RIEGH, and BALLYHOURA in the County of CORK——a great Part of the County of TIPPERARY with it's noted High-Lands, the

the GALTEES and KEEPER; Numbers of Veſſels, from various Parts of the Globe, daily trading up and down the SHANNON—with an open Survey of almoſt this whole County, BUNRATTY (g) and that fine Barony of the Name in full View.

This

(g) BUNRATTY—bordering the Shannon, well-known for ſome Ages to be the noble Reſidence of that once illuſtrious Senior Branch of the *O'Brien* Family, and now the Extinct Houſe of *Thomond*.

This antient Manſion is compos'd of a Magnificent Court, Quadrangled with four large, Spacious, Caſtles——the Offices and Improvements were grand in proportion——the ſituation always engaging and elegant,

with

This Eſtate of CRATLOE was, for a ſucceſſion of Ages, Hereditary in the Chieftain Family of the MAC NAMARAS——but at preſent is, by Purchaſe, the Property of GEORGE QUIN, of Quinſborough, near LIMERICK, Eſq.

From CRATLOE to THOMOND GATE, and round along the River SHANNON to

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with as good Land annex'd to it as any in the Province of Munſter: it is fronted by a ſafe and commodious Harbour, and ſhelter'd with a Cluſter of Verdant Iſlands; here the Warlike *Clarence* or *Claragh More*, already mentioned, reſided for ſome Time; and ſince that Period, a noble Succeſſion of the *O'Briens*; at preſent and for many Years paſt, it is the Seat of *Thomas Studdart*, Sen. Eſq.

O'Brien's Bridge (h) and Killaloe, is a long Scope of choice Ground, well Stock'd and Cultivated, Improv'd and Ornamented with ſeveral excellent Habitations and elegant Lodges.

Broadford, near the Eaſtern extremity of this County, lies bordering on a fertile Valley, almoſt ſurrounded by a Ridge of

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(h) O'Brien's Bridge, ſix Miles N. E. of Limerick, ſituate on the Shannon, is conſiderably long and broad, built on 15 Acres; it derives its Name from Sir *Donough O'Brien* Baronet, under whoſe Directions and Superintendence it was Erected; here are ſome few Houſes, it is a Capital Paſs and Fair Place, and opens a free Intercourſe between this and the County Tipperary.

Mountains,

Mountains, and conſidering its ſituation is a pretty Village.

CALLAGHAN's MILLS, nearly Midway between BROADFORD and TULLA, is a ſmall, clean, Village and Fair-Place; it's ſituation open and agreeable; it takes it's Name from *Daniel O'Callaghan* Eſq; who was (agreeable to the Laws of the Lord Protector) Tranſplanted from his Original and Extenſive Eſtate in DUHALLOW, in the County of CORK, to this Country; He was, in a Paternal Line, deſcended from the renown'd CALLAGHAN CASHILL—and Lineal Predeceſſor to the preſent EDMOND O'CALLAGHAN Eſq; a reſpectable Young Gentleman, Senior and Chief of that Heroic, Eugenian Sept.

TULLA, the Capital of a Barony, is a compact, pretty, Market Town, with a large Market-House, a wide, open, Street, and some good Buildings; from it's advantageous situation, Name and Improvement, it may be justly call'd an handsome, rising, Village; it really affords a commanding Prospect of the agreeable adjacent Country for many Miles, and is in the Centre of a rich and respectable Neighbourhood.

About a Mile N. W. of TULLA lies the River of KILLTANNAN and MILLTOWN, famous for it's ever-amazing and elegant, Subterraneous, Curiosities, call'd the TO-MINES: They form a Part of the River Midway between KILLTANNAN House and the Castle of MILLTOWN, extending, under Ground,

for

for a Space which (from it's Inviſible Winding Banks and Chryſtal Meanders) may reaſonably be computed a Quarter of an Engliſh Mile; they are Vaulted and Shelter'd with a Solid Rock, tranſmitting a ſufficiency of Light and Air by Intermediate Chinks, and Apertures, gradually offering at certain Intervals.

At each Side of this Elyſian-like River, are Roomy Paſſages or rather Apartments freely communicating One with the Other, and ſcarcely obvious to any Inclemency whatſoever: they are, likewiſe, Decorated with a Sandy Beach, level along to walk on, whilſt the curious Spectators are crown'd with Garlands of Ivy, hanging in Triplets from the impending Rocky Shades: Numbers of the Sporting Game, the Wily Fox, the wary

Hare,

Hare, and the Multiplying Rabbet, &c. merrily parading in View of their own ſingular and various, abſconding, Haunts and Retreats. Ingenious Nature thus Entertains her welcome Viſitants from the Entrance to the Extremity of the TO-MINES. Lo! when parting liberally Rewarded, and amply Satisfyed with ſuch egregious and wonderful Exhibitions; a Bridge or Arch over the ſame River, curiouſly compos'd of Solid Stone, appears to them as a lively Repreſentation of an Artificial One.

What can the much boaſted of GIANT'S CAUSEY, in the North of this Kingdom, produce but Scenes of Horror and Obſcurity? whilſt the TO-MINES of the Barony of TULLA, like unto the Artificial Beauties

of

of the LATOMI of SYRACUSE, freely exhibit the moſt natural and pleaſing Appearances.

Let the Literati and Curious, after taking the Continental Tour of EUROPE, praiſe and, even, write of the Imaginary Beauties and Natural Curioſities of ITALY and SWITZERLAND——pray, let them, alſo, on a cool Reflection, repair to the County of CLARE, View and touch upon the truely Subterraneous and really Un-artificial Curioſities of the TO-MINES; they will Impartially admit that theſe naturally Enchanting Rarities may be freely viſited, and generouſly treated of, by the Ingenious and Learned of this and after Ages.

Note that one Side of theſe TO-MINES

appertains

appertains to KILLTANNAN, the elegant Seat and Eſtate of JAMES MOLONY Eſq; and the other to MILLTOWN, the Eſtate of JOHN COLPOYS, of BALLYCARR, Eſq;

The Centre of this County is, for the moſt Part, Arable, good, Limy Ground; nor is it free from a Share of Bog and Mountain, gradually Interſering, which generally abound with Game; The Buildings and Improvements are truely Commendable, and the Country Populous; more ſo, for it's Extent, than any of the Neighbouring Counties.

To Enumerate the many grand Edifices, Caſtles, Abbies, Natural Curioſities and other remaining Traces of Antiquity, in this Country, is a matter of Inveſtigation, more ſuitably calculated for a future Hiſtory than a Short Narrative;

Narrative; however, it may be taken for granted that no other County can produce more noble Rarities than this.

The Warlike MAC NAMARAS, of the Eaſtern Baronies of this County, have built 91 Caſtles.——The Great MAC MAHONS, of the Weſtern Baronies of MOYFEARTA and CLONDERLA, a good many, the Hoſpitable (i) O'CONNORS and O'LOGHLENS of the Upper Parts (with ſeveral other antient and

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(i) The *O'Connors* and *O'Loghlens*, tho' formerly principal Inheritors in this County; were not of the Dalgaſſian Race, but of an Antient and Royal, Northern, Extraction.

reſpectable Proprietors) (k) have, alſo, built Numbers of Caſtles.

According to the Learned Sir JAMES WARE, and other Antiquarians of Eminence, the great DONALD O'BRIEN, (Sirnam'd King of LIMERICK and CASHELL) Founded and Endowed, in his Time, 18 Monaſteries

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(k) *Mac Clancies, Mac Inerhinies, O'Deas, O'Heihirs, O'Nelans, O'Hogans, O'Gradys, O'Caſeys, Mac Craiths, Mac Conſidins, Mac Gormans, Mac Galleroys, O'Molouneys, O'Davorens,* and *O'Hallorans,* were Gentlemen of conſiderable Properties and Conſequence in this County.

N. B. The above Names are written as they are commonly expreſs'd, which by due propriety ſhould be *Macs Clanchy, Macs Inerhiny,* &c.

in

in this, and the Counties of LIMERICK and TIPPERARY——the principal whereof in this Country, is the great Abby of CORCAMROE, where Multitudes, from divers Parts, come Yearly to ſee it's Artificial Curioſity and excellence of Stone Work; particularly, the Statue of CONNOR O'BRIEN, (commonly called CONCHURE NA SIUDINNE) elegantly Engrav'd in the Chapel of that amazing Pile of Building: The ſame CONCHURE fought ſix Battles againſt the Prince of CONAUGHT, in the laſt of which he was loſt the Thurſday before Whitſun, in the Year 1260.

It was this (l) CONCHURE NA SIUDDINE, had

(l) This Prince (ſo call'd from Sudinny the Name of a Wood in the Upper Part of Bur-

had the great Abby of RATISBON, in GERMANY, built at his own Expence, for Iriſh Monks of the Auguſtinian Order—the Chronicles of which, ſtile him King of IRELAND.

The afore-mention'd DANIEL MORE O'BRIEN, King of LIMERICK, NORTH MUNSTER, &c. was a Prince of exalted Virtues; he voluntarily ſubmitted in the Year 1172, to King Henry the 2d of ENGLAND; he was provok'd to this tame Submiſſion by the unnatural Conduct of RODERICK O'CONNOR, King of IRELAND, who, inſtead of marching againſt the Engliſh Ad-

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ren, near which he was kill'd) was Grandſon to the great *Daniel O'Brien* already mention'd, and Father to the warlike and renown'd *Terlaugh*; alſo, to *Brian Roe O'Brien*, from whom deſcended the *O'Briens* of Duthara.

venturers,

venturers, headed by Earl STRONGBOW, enter'd MUNSTER with a powerful Army, but was repuls'd, with conſiderable Loſs, by this Enterprizing Prince and his brave Dalgaſſians

It was his Son, DONOGH CARBREACH, a very Religious and Devout Prince, that built 80 Churches, Abbeys and Chapels (See Mac Brody's Chronicles) the Abbey of ENNIS for Franciſcans, was one of the firſt he built in the Year, 1208.—He, alſo, erected an Academy or Seminary for Learning at CLONROAD, near ENNIS, where, according to many authentic Writers, 600 Scholars and a great Number of Monks were frequently Supported at the proper Expences of the O'Brien Family; untill the Reign of Henry the 8th

of

of England. When the Diſſolution of Abbies, Seminaries, &c. &c. commenc'd—It was he, alſo, built and Fortifyed CLARE Caſtle as afore-related.

The Abbey of QUIN, (another great and conſummate Model of Old, Iriſh, Maſonry) was built in the Year 1434, by MAC-CON MAC NAMARA, Prince of CLANCULLANE, and Anceſtor to the preſent FRANCIS MAC NAMARA, of MORIESK, Elq; Member of the Irſh Parliament, and Chief of that Antient, Warlike, Sept.

Note, that all theſe noble Families, and Proprietors in this County, were Subordinate to the O'BRIENS, Chiefs of the Dalgaſſian, Heroic, Race, and Sovereigns of THOMOND

or

or NORTH-MUNSTER for a Succeſſion of Centuries.

This County (equal to others in this Kingdom, particularly SOUTH-MUNSTER) hath produc'd Men of Exalted Character, and Diſtinguiſh'd Merit, in ſeveral Parts of Europe; viz. Lord CLARE, Lieutenant General in the French Service, who fell in the Battle of Ramillies in Flanders, May 12, 1706; he was Father to the late Marſhal THOMOND, the greateſt in Military Rank, next to the Princes of the Blood, in the French Service; Colonel DONOGH MAC MAHON of CLENAGH, (Chief of that Valiant, Old, Family, and Grandfather of the preſent FRANCIS MAC MAHON, of TOONAGH, Eſq;) who was Governor of Piſtoa in Tuſcany; the

two

two Colonels O'Dea, the preſent Colonel Aylmer, and the late Admiral O'Honin, Commander of the Ferrol Fleet, Admiral Mac Namara of the Breſt Fleet, Brigadier General James Creagh, an experienc'd Officer of Gallantry in the French Service: Count Nelan, who fell in the Imperial Service in the Year 1758. Chevalier De Gorman, of Paris, Major General Montfort Browne, preſent Governor of the Bahama Iſlands, and Brother to Thomas Browne, Jun. of New Grove, Eſq; Chief of that Reſpectable, Antient, Britiſh Stock in this County.

Theſe Sons of Fame, and other Officers of Reputation not mention'd here, were all Natives of this County, the great Marſhal Thomond, alone, excepted.

Nor

Nor has this Country, from the earlieſt to the preſent Age, been leſs Characteriz'd at home for reſpectable Gentlemen of polite Parts and regular Education; Clergy of Exemplary Piety and profound Learning, Dignified Chief Juſtices, perſevering Patriots, perſuaſive Orators, and Antiquarians of diſtinguiſh'd Talents and Poetical Abilities.

NORTH MUNSTER, in antient Time, was famous for Arts and Arms, Learning and Hoſpitality; theſe were it's peculiar Characteriſtics (which are generally natural to the Iriſh Nation) nor does it, at the preſent Period, fall much ſhort of the latter Quality; as it is obvious, that People of all Denominations, here, from the Gentleman of Fortune to the low Cottager, are endowed with an

extraordinary ſpring of Generoſity; this is notoriouſly evinc'd from Numbers of Deſtitute Strangers and Craving Itinerants, reſorting hither from various Parts of the Kingdom, when Scarcity preſides in their own reſpective Quarters; here they are chearfully receiv'd and humanely reliev'd.

Each Gentle Pair by gen'rous feelings led,
To have poor Objects from their Tables fed;
Of diſtreſs'd Crowds, who call from Day to Day,
No Soul dejected ever goes away.

From the ſame prevalent and reigning Principle, blended with particular Extravagancies, this Country cannot bid ſo fair for Affluence as other Counties.

Nothing oppoſite to good Harmony and Underſtanding ſubſiſts here; no Seditious Factions,

tions, Nocturnal Meetings, or Inteſtine Broils, are ever known or practiſed in the County CLARE, as have been apparent in other Parts of this Kingdom.

May the ſame Spirit of Peace and Unity, which happily reign here, diffuſe itſelf among the Deluded and Evil-minded elſewhere, is the hearty Wiſh of an

Impartial and ſincere Friend to Civil Society,

May, 10, 1779. JOHN LLOYD.

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This Short DESCRIPTION may be had from the following, viz. Mr. Mat. Kelly, Merchant in Limerick ; Mr. Pat. Ryan, Merchant in Kilruſh ; Meſſrs. John Buſteed and Geo. Trinder, in Tralee or Ennis ; Mr. John Hogan, Inſtructer, in Change-lane, Limerick ; Mr. John Lloyd (the Author thereof) at Tureen ; and Mr. Tho. Meehan, Teacher of Accompts and Mathematics in Ennis.